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[handwritten: CIA1.04 Powers, Francis ... zaquin, Paul]

[handwritten: CIA4.02 U-2
Soc. 4.01.2 Operation
— Overflight
Origin 1s May
Fr. Letter]

FOR   PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM   The Chicago Show   **STATION** WLS-TV

DATE   April 30, 1970 - 12:00 Midnight   **CITY**   Chicago

WLS-TV SPECIAL

ANNOUNCER: Tonight: a special program with U-2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers. Now, here's Paul Benzaquin.

PAUL BENZAQUIN: Well, we're getting around the first of May. 10 Years ago they had a big parade through Moscow, like they always do. And on that same day, 6:26, a U-2 plane took off from Turkey and began to make the first flight that would have gone all the way across Russia. Until then there had been overflights but they always came back the same day. That flight didn't make it. A rocket brought that plane down, and all of a sudden a whole new world knew the name of Francis Gary Powers.

He did time, in Russian prison, he got tried over there, he got sprung, or swapped for a spy. And he's kept his mouth shut, which is quite remarkable, for quite a long time. So Francis Gary Powers had a lot to say, and the problem was how to say it well, how to say it in sequence and how to make it listened to.

So, he got himself the services of a friend of this program, and a man who knows how to use the language -- Curt Gentry. Curt was on this program sometime back last fall -- talking about his book, "the Last Days of the Great State of California." So this is in no sense a ghost job; this is a preformance by 2 people -- one of whom has a very important story to tell and one who has the skills to help him tell it.

Curt and I are going to do a job tonight. We're going to talk to Francis Gary Powers , and see if we can tell you in sequence, his side of the story. The story tells itself pretty well. I'm giving you a long preamble because this book deserves it . The book is called "Operation Overcast". It's a piece of history and we have to do it carefully.   I think the most significant thing that I got out of the book for a starter Gary, was that the big question was never answered until you answered and even then the answer wasn't too satisfactory. No plans were made for failure -- you weren't ready to go down.